restoration of the damaged channel bunds, etc., such breaches could be avoided. The Public Works Department should in carrying out the works at least associate with it a few ryots of the locality.

The Public Works Department were not attending to the necessary repairs and other works whenever necessary. As an instance he mentioned that the Pazhayar which drained the waters from several water-courses during the rainy season was getting silted up. There were also encroachments along its banks. It was the duty of the Public Works Department to see that the silt and mud-banks were removed as well as the encroachments along its banks. The easing of the bends in that river, the reduction of the area of some of the salt factories which were a source of hindrance to the waters in the Pazhayar flowing into the sea, the removal of the rock above Viranarayanamangalam which obstructed the course of the water and the provision of a cross-bar with falling shutters at that place were works which required early attention.

No irrigation tanks should be sold by auction in future and the existing tanks should be properly maintained.

Certain improvements to the Puttanar were necessary. In the rainy season the waters of the surrounding areas swelled the river into a high flood rendering the banks unsafe and causing breaches also here and there. It was therefore necessary that the Puttanar which was narrow from the Kotandaraman escape to the second mile should be widened and an escape where the water collected largely should be provided so as to divert the water to the Pazhayar. It was also necessary to strengthen and widen the banks of the Terakkal into which the waters from the Puttanar through the Vellamatam escape rushed.

Again, the waters from the forest area covered by three miles of the Tovala Channel from the 13th to the 16th mile could not find their way through the passages provided for the purpose. It was therefore suggested that a syphon might be constructed near Kadukara in the Tovala Channel.

The construction of a new escape for the flow of surplus water in the Virakeralappanerikulam was also a necessity.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Nagaru Pillai, your first point that Government should transfer the construction of certain public works to the guidance and supervision of ryots is, I am afraid, far too drastic a change for the Government to accept at the present moment.

2. With regard to the Viranarayanamangalam rock and dam, action has already been taken and the work is proceeding.

3. Then you refer to the deepening of the existing tanks. The Public Works Department has already in hand the proper maintenance and putting in order of minor tanks. The question of major tanks is also receiving attention.

4. The matter in respect of constructing an outlet channel from Terakkal to the Pazhayar is already in hand; the N. P. channel has already been improved in the first ten miles.

5. The provision of a syphon near Kadukara in the Tovala Channel is, according to the best advice, not necessary.

6. For the flow of surplus water in the Virakeralappanerikulam the necessary works have been arranged for.

56. Public works in the Neyyattinkara taluk.

MR. M. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group II*) requested that the following works might be carried out:—

(i) A bridge and a culvert on the Uruttambalam-Malayinkizh trace should be constructed and the road rendered fit for cart traffic in 1102.

(ii) The works in respect of the Peyad-Vellanad trace, the Nemam-Uruttambalam trace and the Tachottukadavu trace should be completed and they should be made fit for use.

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(iii) The Balaramapuram, Pappanamkod and Vazhutakad roads meeting at the Kattakada market should be metalled to withstand the heavy traffic.

(iv) Funds should be provided for the improvement of the approach roads to the Vizhavur bridge which was under repairs.

(v) Steps should be taken to prevent the damages caused to crops in the paddy fields adjoining the Vellayani lake. *Azhukichetam* was a common feature of most of these fields.

(vi) Now that most of the minor irrigation tanks in the *pakuthies* comprised in Group I of the Neyyattinkara taluk had been restored, the tanks in Group II should be taken up for repairs.

(vii) The work on the channel along the eastern side of the Kottukal *ela* was now going on. Care should be taken to see that the bank of the channel was strong enough to prevent breaches which in the past led to the rush of sand into the paddy fields. The work should be expedited and should be followed up by a similar channel along the western side of the *ela*.

There were several natural streams which had not been definitely classed under major or minor irrigation works. Owing to want of proper maintenance and absence of responsibility in the matter, the banks were breached and fields were often silted up. The banks of these streams were partly *poramboke* and partly registered holdings. A set of rules defining the duties and the rights and liabilities of the adjacent owners should be framed.

Avenue trees were not planted by the Government ; nor was any remuneration paid to private persons for rearing such trees. The working of a scheme for the systematic planting of jack, laurel, tamarind, mango, etc., as avenue trees through the agency of the people would bring in considerable revenue to the Government.

The rates of maintenance charges for roads and traces now in force were fixed years ago and were grossly inadequate to present requirements.

The people had agreed to surrender, free of compensation, the lands required for the Kovalam-Venganur road and had submitted memorials to that effect to the Chief Engineer on the 3rd Makaram 1101 and to the Government on the 8th Kumbham 1101. The proposed trace was to be taken along the southern side of the Vellayani lake and would be of considerable use. It was a matter for consideration whether the poor ryots who had surrendered the land should be asked to bear any portion of the expenditure on the construction of the road. Early orders should be passed sanctioning the construction of the road.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kochukrishna Pillai, in regard to communications, the first point you take up is the construction of a bridge and a culvert along the Malayinkizh-Uruttampalam trace. An estimate is under preparation and it is hoped to provide funds in the budget for 1102.

2. As regards the completion of the following traces, *viz.*, the Peyad-Vellanad trace, the Neuam-Uruttambalam trace, and the Tachottukadavu trace, the first work is already in progress, the second is nearing completion and the third has been sanctioned for the current year.

3. Then you referred to the metalling of the three branch roads—Vazhutakad, Pappanamkod and Balaramapuram roads meeting the Kattakkada market road. The first road is fairly well maintained as a Government road already. The question of metalling it properly will be taken up shortly. As regards the second, an estimate for Rs. 3390 has already been sanctioned and the work is in progress. In regard to the Balaramapuram road also, an estimate for Rs. 3,000 has been sanctioned and the work is in progress.

4. With respect to avenue trees, a scheme has come up from the Chief Engineer. The Economic Development Board has taken up the question. Your suggestions will be considered in conjunction with those schemes.

5. All the other points, especially in the matter of irrigation, will be dealt with in due course and every effort made to give effect to your requests.

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